

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An extruder system with a gear pump, comprising an extruder for axially extruding a rubber or plastic material in a barrel by rotation of an extrusion screw arranged in the barrel, and a gear pump driven by a rotational force for rotating the extrusion screw so that a predetermined amount of the material extruded from the extruder is discharged by engagement of gears, wherein:

the said-gear pump comprises

a driving pinion arranged coaxially to the extrusion screw and fixedly secured to a tip end of the extrusion screw,

at least one driven pinion meshed with, and driven by the driving pinion and rotatable about a rotational shaft that is parallel to a rotational shaft of the extrusion screw, and

a gear casing ~~accommodating these pinions therein;~~ housing the driving pinion and the at least one driven pinion;

the said-gear casing comprises

side plates arranged on both axial sides of the ~~pinions~~ driving pinion and the at least one driven pinion leaving a small clearance ~~therefrom;~~ from the driving pinion and the at least one driven pinion, and extending perpendicularly to the rotational shaft of the extrusion screw, and

a casing body arranged between the side plates and enclosing a space on a radially outer side of the ~~pinions;~~ driving pinion and the at least one driven pinion, the ~~gear-casing body further consisting of comprising a plurality of openings~~ axial opening portions, each axial opening portion housing ~~houses a pinion~~ a respective pinion selected

from a group consisting of the driving pinion and the at least one driven pinion, the each opening portion substantially conforming in size and shape to an outer circumferential profile of the respective pinion such that a, ~~whereby the~~ space on the radially outer side of ~~each the~~ respective pinion is minimized so that the predetermined amount of material extruded flows between ~~intermingling~~ teeth of ~~the pinions~~ each respective pinion in operation;

~~the said~~ rotational shaft of the at least one driven pinion is fixedly secured to the side plates; ~~and~~

~~the said~~ side plates ~~includes~~ include a side plate situated on the suction side adjacent to the extrusion screw and a side plate situated on the discharge side remote from the extrusion screw, ~~said the~~ side plate on the suction side having a suction port that is arranged opposite to that side of an engagement region between the driving pinion and the at least one driven pinion, where ~~their~~ teeth of the driving pinion and the at least one driven pinion are being disengaged from each other, and ~~said the~~ side plate on the discharge side having a discharge port that is arranged opposite to that side of the engagement region between the driving pinion and the at least one driven pinion, where ~~their~~ the teeth of the driving pinion and the at least one driven pinion are being engaged from each other, ~~said the~~ suction port and ~~said the~~ discharge port being maintained out of an axial communication with each other by ~~said pinions~~ the driving pinion and the at least one driven pinion, and

the casing body further comprises a plurality of recesses positioned at each axial end of at least one of the plurality of axial opening portions, the plurality of recesses being partially non-overlapping with the suction port and the discharge port.

2. (Original) The extruder system according to claim 1, wherein the teeth of said driving pinion and said driven pinion are comprised of bevel gear teeth.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Original) The extruder system according to claim 1, wherein said casing

includes a cooling jacket.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Original) The extruder system according to claim 2, wherein said casing includes a cooling jacket.

7-9. (Canceled)